

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/400,297

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

Applicant(s)

ITO, WATARU

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.


1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on 02/18/2005 and the After Final Amendment filed on 11/16/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


CHARLES RONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 18-February-2005 has been entered. In addition, the amendment filed on 16-November-2004 has been entered for the continued examination of this application.

Remarks

2. In response to the amendment filed on 16-November-2004, independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 have been amended per applicant's request. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Allowance

3. Claims 1-20 are allowed over the prior art made of record.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The applicant's amendment After Final, filed on 16-November-2004, overcomes the cited prior art with respect to the independent claims:

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The prior art of record, Iizuka (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,030), Mast (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,287), Wootton et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,471), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

a third process of generating information incidental to said portion image data, said incidental information including boundary information which expresses a boundary dividing respective the portion image data; and

a fourth process of encrypting every said portion image data to provide every said portion image data with security so that unauthorized access to the portion image data cannot be obtained without decrypting,

wherein image-handling of said portion image data is performed by using said incidental information so that the image-handling is performed while said portion image data remains encrypted, as recited in independent claim 1.

Claims 2-5 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependents from the allowed independent claim 1.

The prior art of record, Iizuka (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,030), Mast (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,287), Wootton et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,471), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

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identifier generating means which generates information incidental to said portion image data, said incidental information which expresses a boundary dividing respective the portion image data; and

file generating means which generates an image file on the basis of said portion image data encrypted by said encrypting means and said incidental information generated by said identifier generating means,

wherein image-handling of said portion image data is performed by using said incidental information so that the image-handling is performed while said portion image data remains encrypted, as recited in independent claim 6.

Claims 7-10 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependents from the allowed independent claim 6.

The prior art of record, Iizuka (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,030), Mast (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,287), Wootton et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,471), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

a third step of generating information incidental to said portion image data, said incidental information including boundary information which expresses a boundary dividing respective the portion image data; and

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a fourth step of encrypting every said portion image data to provide every said portion image data with security so that unauthorized access to the portion image data cannot be obtained without decryption; and

a fifth step of image-handling said portion image data by using said incidental information so that the image-handling is performed while said portion image data remains encrypted, as recited in independent claim 11.

Claims 12-15 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependents from the allowed independent claim 11.

The prior art of record, Iizuka (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,030), Mast (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,287), Wootton et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,471), do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

a third process of generating information incidental to said portion image data, said incidental information including boundary information which expresses a boundary dividing respective the portion image data; and

a fourth process of encrypting, per predetermined unit, every said portion image data which has been divided into said predetermined unit to provide every said portion image data with security so that unauthorized access to the portion image data cannot be obtained without decryption,

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a fifth process of image-handling said portion image data by using said incidental information so that the image-handling is performed while said portion image data remains encrypted, as recited in independent claim 16.

Claims 17-20 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependents from the allowed independent claim 16.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4078. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (571) 272-4083.

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April 1, 2005


CHARLES RONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER